

*Gary -- Clubs and
Organizations*

International FOR REFERENCE ONLY Institute

of Gary, Indiana,

INCORPORATED

321 WEST 15th AVENUE ☆ PHONE 2-3009

GARY, INDIANA

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A Service Bureau

FOR ALL NATIONALITIES



"You were drawn across the ocean by some beckoning finger of hope, by some belief, by some vision of a new kind of justice, by some expectation of a better kind of life—Just because you brought dreams with you America is more likely to realize dreams such as you bring. You are enriching us if you come expecting us to be better than we are."

—WOODROW WILSON

(In a speech at the foot of
the Statue of Liberty)

THE FOREIGN BORN—PIONEERS OF OUR CITY

In 1906, news traveled over the world that the foundations of a steel mill were being laid in the sand dunes of Lake Michigan. Soon from other countries came craftsmen and laborers bringing skills needed to develop the largest steel mill in the world. By 1910 the foreign born people composed 49% of the population of Gary, Indiana. Through the years they and their children have contributed their talents to industry, commerce, the arts and professions, and to the civic and political life of one of America's youngest cities.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE IS FOUNDED

When the first world war ended there was another upsurge of immigration with many immigrants coming to Gary. In 1919 civic leaders saw the need for a nonsectarian agency which would further the welfare of the people from many lands and help them in the process of becoming American citizens.

Thus the International Institute of Gary was founded, and ever since it has served the foreign born people faithfully, adjusting its program in accord with their most pressing needs. The Institute is the only agency of its kind in Lake County and with one exception in the State of Indiana.

INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

Problems which confront the foreign born people are complex because of the nature of our federal immigration and naturalization laws. These are technical and especially baffling to persons handicapped in the use of English.

Institute workers give counsel and skilled help in the preparation of documents for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Department of State and the American Consuls abroad. In the main, the work consists of helping people to

- Apply for naturalization
- Bring relatives for permanent residence
- Bring students and visitors
- Change immigration status
- Avoid deportation when possible
- Prepare for trips abroad

Be repatriated to this or other countries
Locate relatives
Replace lost documents
Fill out alien and other reports

The Institute acquaints immigrants with the social welfare, employment and educational resources of the community and provides counseling service for numerous personal problems.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The International Institute serves as a link between the general community and the nationality groups, working toward integration of the native and foreign born Americans for the enrichment of American life.

The agency interprets changes in immigration and naturalization laws to the foreign born people and also to the general community. It organized the Gary Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons which helped to mobilize public opinion in this area for passage of a special law. It assisted individuals and organizations in preparation of assurances for Displaced Persons and when the newcomers arrived, regardless of sponsorship, the agency gave service to all—over 1700 in number. The Institute worked under the Refugee Law to bring Escapees from Communism, Greek earthquake victims and many more preference relatives of our Greek and Italian residents.

The Institute honors the new citizens at such events as the commemoration of National Citizenship Day. Its quarters still provide a place of meeting for several nationality clubs for evening or weekend meetings.

THE NATIONAL OFFICE

The International Institute of Gary is affiliated with the American Federation of International Institutes, 11 West 42nd Street, New York 18, New York. This national agency brings together for joint planning and interpretation the many local Institutes and other agencies working for immigrants. It is affiliated with leading national organizations working on behalf of immigrants and acts with them to interpret the need for legislation which will improve the position of the foreign born people in the United States.

HOW THE AGENCY IS FINANCED

An allotment is made each year from the Gary Community Chest to the International Institute after the Budget Committee of the Chest, composed of representative citizens of Gary, considers the agency's financial needs. However, because of expanding work, it is necessary to supplement this amount by contributions from persons who are especially interested in the program of the Institute.

MEMBERSHIP

Over a thousand people and a number of organizations have expressed their interest in the work of the International Institute by becoming members of the agency.

There are three classes of memberships:

Regular membership \$1.00

Contributing membership Over \$1.00

Club membership \$10.00 or more

Members of the Institute are invited to the Annual Meetings which since the war have had a colorful nationality program, preserving the traditional objective of interpreting the culture of native lands. The executive secretary gives her annual report at the Annual Meeting.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the membership for a three year term and may be reelected for a second term of three years, after which they are automatically retired. About one-half of the Board of Directors represents the nationality groups and one-half represents the general community. The officers are elected by the Directors at the first board meeting following the Annual Meeting.

STAFF

Professionally trained and experienced social workers counsel and help the foreign born people, not only in the field of immigration and naturalization, but with their many personal problems. A skilled clerical staff takes care of the office work. Letters and documents of the Institute go out all over the world.

The International Institute is a member of the
GARY COMMUNITY CHEST — (UNITED FUND)
GARY COMMUNITY WELFARE COUNCIL

and is endorsed by the

GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE